

April 17, 2002

Hey! Bedey and Jim —

Sometimes the weather really gets strange here. As I write this home, outside its blue sky, sunny, and warm — and snowing! Guess the wind is blowing the stuff off the mountains, because it sure ain't coming from clouds!

Jean and I are well. In a week I'll be heading off with four other guys for a back pack trip through the Grand Canyon. After that I may not be well. Jean is passing on this one. She'll be glad to be rid of me for a week.

We are thoroughly enjoying the two CDs you sent to us last December. Would like Jim to autograph Cyberchump sometime. It does wonders for my ego to be able to prove I know celebrities! Great stuff!! — The CDs, that is!

I think I promised a response to the VCR Dagma which you also kindly sent us. (How can I possibly pass up a chance to verbose.) First, I know that I reserve the right to see whatever I want in a movie, or in any piece of art for that matter, even if my observations are not the author's intent. Second, I think Linda Fiorentino is sexy as hell!

Thirdly, I was interested that the plot that drives this flick is about two exiled "angels" who want to get back into heaven. They find that to accomplish this, all they need to do is to get to New Jersey. New Jersey?!! The problem is that if they succeed, as indeed they try to do, they will destroy creation. I was reminded of one erstwhile U.S. Dept. of Interior secretary under

Ronald Reagan named James Watt who blatantly pronounced that it didn't matter to him if pollution, global warming, and all manner of exploitation should destroy the earth, because our task is not to save creation but instead to

get into heaven. Hats off to the Linda Fiorentino's of the world who lead off these religious nuts!

Finally, there is the matter of the film's irreverence and its total blaspheming of all things religious — which I loved! One needs to recall that the only thing our Hebrew-Christian tradition really condemns is idolatry, which is the worship of anything in this world, including religion, the Bible, the church, etc., as a god. Well, religion these day has, in my estimation, become an idol for sure, and I applaud Dogma for its wonderful sacrilegiousness. Hey! Jesus himself raised hell with religion, the priests, sanctimonious, holier-than-thou asses bales of his day. That's one reason he put him down! Jesus would love this film. It isn't that I totally despise religion. It's just when it gets separated from the real world into "special" acts or ceremonies or rituals ^{or institutions} that it becomes sick. actually I appreciate implicit religion, that is religion hidden in the secular, as a dimension of the real world in all of our daily life and death. I do not think well of explicit religion in any form. More on this another time.

Now, here you have it — my very own personal response to Dogma — which I thought was a great movie. Now you may, if you care, respond to my response.

It was super great to be with you here last winter. Please come again!

"Hang in." Much love,

Bruce